

AMY JO SCHOONOVER

Mathematical Metaphor

Love is an expression
of non-Euclidian mathematics:
function, operation,
series, set, primes,
fittings-together, unknowns,
the male and female principle,
and eventual completion,

Like a difficult puzzle
every child learns
and then can work forever.

You have been my puzzle
of love and learning.

I try all theories, paradoxes
against the constant of you,
continuing a norm,
making (though I never look back)
a perfect bell-curve.

When the last proof is given
and we have completed
the mythical architecture,

We shall have lived—
we will be old indeed.

VERA WHITMER

Grief

Mirror, help me fix a careful smile
with color-muted lipstick on frozen face.
I'll wear it just as bravely as I can.

Grief, that formless predatory cat,
crouches and licks his bloodied claws,
endlessly occupied in shredding my essence.

Grief, you are forever and ever,
but where is your Amen?